



Maryland

Weekly Crop and Weather Report

MD-CW0306

APRIL 17, 2006

Dry Weather Continues

Last weekend's showers provided a brief respite from the dry conditions this spring. Precipitation across the state ranged from two to eight inches below normal while temperatures averaged 4 to 11 degrees above normal. Producers reported **6.0 days suitable** for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture is 33 percent adequate, 39 percent short, and 38 percent very short. Pasture condition remains relatively good with 85 percent reported in fair to excellent condition.

Growers are preparing soils for **corn** planting; 10 percent has been planted compared to 7 percent last year and 6 percent average. Growers fear the lack of moisture after seed is planted will impact germination. Last week's rains perked up small grains. **Barley** condition is 71 percent good to excellent compared to 60 percent good to excellent last week. **Wheat** condition is 68 percent good to excellent compared to 46 percent last week. Barley has started to head.

Strawberries are 22 percent bloomed, comparable to last year. **Peaches** are ahead of normal with 48 percent bloomed, compared to 14 percent last year and 33 percent average. Vegetable crops are being planted with progress ahead of normal. **Cucumbers** are 26 percent planted compared to 4 percent last week and 3 percent average. **Sweet corn** is 19 percent planted compared to 8 percent last year and 11 percent average. **Snap bean** and **watermelon** planting is significantly ahead of normal.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 16, 2006 (PERCENT)

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average 2001-2005
Small Grain Development:				
Barley Headed	8	-	-	3
Planting Progress:				
Cantaloups	15	7	5	5
Corn	10	1	7	6
Cucumbers	26	4	1	3
Green Peas	36	34	41	52
Potatoes	41	35	45	38
Sweet Corn	19	13	8	11
Tomatoes	33	19	19	14
Watermelons	28	6	6	4
Fruit Crops Blooming:				
Peaches	48	25	14	33
Strawberries	22	15	23	28

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 16, 2006 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	28	39	33	-
Topsoil (2005)	-	3	72	25
Five Year Average	1	10	57	33
Subsoil Moisture	10	48	41	1
Subsoil (2005)	-	-	74	26
Five Year Average	7	11	62	21

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 16, 2006

	Precipitation			Temperatures			
Weather Station	Total this week	Total Since Jan 1	Departure from Normal Since Jan 1	High	Low	Average	Departure from Normal
Maryland							
Baltimore/Washington Airport	0.05	7.93	-3.22	82	33	60	8
Easton	0.06	7.75	-2.35	79	30	58	11
Frederick	0.34	8.65	-3.80	73	26	54	9
Frostburg	0.28	5.57	-4.34	75	35	59	8
Hagerstown	0.00	5.87	-6.75	85	31	59	6
Mechanicsville	0.10	5.12	-6.02	83	36	60	7
Patuxent River	0.02	5.11	-8.39	84	31	57	4
Ocean City	0.01	5.41	-7.61	83	25	57	5
Salisbury	0.13	6.89	-3.21	79	26	56	9
Sharpsburg	0.16	6.73	-4.68	81	39	59	6
Washington, DC (Reagan National)	0.00	7.02	-2.99	83	39	63	7
Delaware							
Dover	0.12	6.77	-4.93	81	39	59	7
Georgetown	0.42	5.40	-7.30	83	32	60	9
Wilmington	0.09	7.76	-3.37	80	35	58	7

Weather Data is provided by the Agricultural Weather Information Service, Auburn, Alabama and is considered preliminary.